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## CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE OF THE ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 781 INTRODUCED BY HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE JONATHAN WINDY BOY:

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE COLLECTION OF DATA ON RACIAL PROFILING IN TRAFFIC STOPS; PROVIDING FOR REPORTS BASED UPON THE DATA; AMENDING SECTION 44-2-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

PRESENTED TO:
HONORABLE DIANE RICE, CHAIRWOMAN
HONORABLE DAVE GALLIK, VICE-CHAIR
HONORABLE RON STOKER, VICE-CHAIR
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 23, 2007 STATE CAPITOL ROOM 137 HELENA, MONTANA

## INTRODUCTION

Good Morning, Honorable Chairwoman Rice, Vice-Chairs

Gallick and Stoker and Members of the Committee. The

Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation respectfully
submits this testimony is support of House Bill No. 781: "An Act

Requiring the Collection of Data on Racial Profiling in Traffic

Stops; Providing for Reports Based Upon the Data; Amending

Section 44-2-117, MCA; and Providing an Effective Date." The

bill is sponsored by our House Representative Jonathan Windy

Boy and provides for the collection of data on racial profiling in

traffic stops.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe supports House Bill 781 because of the need to collect data on racial profiling in traffic stops involving drivers of motor vehicles in our State. It just makes good sense from a public policy standpoint to require the collection

the data to assist with the assessment of potential racial profiling by Montana peace officers on our roads here in Montana.

This bill complements our racial profiling laws here in Montana and what the State Legislature has approved in the 2003 & 2005 sessions prohibiting racial profiling by our peace officers on Montana roads. We applaud the House Judiciary Committee for its actions in the 2005 session for approving the revision of the racial profiling law to require written policies and complaint procedures and requiring racial profiling training for law enforcement officers. House Bill 781 complements the current law by requiring data collection on racial profiling. We feel this requirement protects both the citizens of Montana driving on our roads and the peace officers implementing our traffic laws.

Our peace officers are required under current state law to not engage in racial profiling and to have written policies and complaint procedures in place in addition to training on racial profiling. The proposed requirement to collect data on traffic stops by our peace officers will assist in the assessment of whether our racial profiling laws are being adhered to by our peace officers. It is our hope the data collected will show that our peace officers are adequately trained and that our departmental policies against racial profiling are being enforced. This just makes good sense for our Montana citizens driving on our road systems...public safety and protection on our state highways.

On behalf of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's reservation, we urge you to approve House Bill No. 781. I also would like to thank the Honorable Chairman and members of the Committee for allowing us to testify today in support of H.B. 781 and to personally thank Representative Windy Boy or Jonathan as we know him for sponsoring this Bill.

Thank you,

John Chance Houle, Chairman

John C Haule Dry

Chippewa Cree Tribe